

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-11, 13, 15-16, 19, 21-28, and 30-32 are not unpatentable over Harris in view of Barkat.

Claim 1 recites a handset having first and second exchangeable keypads and circuitry within the housing which can detect which keypad is being used by detecting the different electrical resistance of the keypads. This has the advantage of minimizing the number of needed connector pins, thereby allowing key layout design freedom without any non-functional components. In turn, this minimizes costs.

Barkat is for the problem of powering an accessory (see column 1, lines 21-23). Thus it is improper to combine it with Harris to solve the problem of minimizing connector pins, see In re Bigio, 72 USPQ2d 1209 1212. Further, even if the references are somehow combined, the result is not the present invention. In particular, Barkat shows detecting a headset accessory 200, data cable accessory 300, hands-free accessory, or a desktop charger accessory (see column 4, lines 9-12). There is no disclosure of detecting first and second exchangeable keypads as recited in claim 1. Thus detecting the resistance of the exchangeable keypads would still be missing from the combination even if the references are combined.

For both of the above reasons claim 1 is patentable. This remaining independent claims have similar limitation, thus they are also patentable.

Claims 5-6, 20, and 29 are not unpatentable over Harris in view of Barkat, and further in view of Parker.

Parker does not illuminate a keypad as recited in claims 5, 20 and 29, but has a display indicator 108. Thus combining it with Harris and Barkat does not result in the invention of claims 5-6, 20 and 29. Thus these claims are patentable for reasons in addition to those given for the independent claims.


Claim 14 is not unpatentable over Harris in view of Barkat and further in view of White.

White fails to disclose measuring keypad resistance. Thus combining it with Harris and Barkat does not result in the invention of claim 14.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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